Republican River Basin-Wide Plan January Coordination Meeting Notes

Tuesday, January 16, 2018 **10:30 AM – 1:00 PM** Tri-Basin Natural Resources District – 1723 Burlington Street, Holdrege, NE

Attendance

Todd Siel (LRNRD) Carol Flaute (NeDNR) Patti Banks (Vireo)

Scott Dicke (LRNRD) Jennifer Schellpeper (NeDNR) Craig Scott (USBR)

Nate Jenkins (URNRD) Jack Russell (MRNRD) Sylvia Johnson (MRNRD)

John Thorburn (TBNRD) Jeff Fassett (NeDNR)

The meeting opened with a discussion of the plan timeline. An additional June stakeholder meeting will be necessary for a final stakeholder vote on the plan, unless the full plan is approved by stakeholders at the March stakeholder meeting. NeDNR and the NRDs will exchange letters to extend the plan deadline by one year to April 17, 2019, to allow time after stakeholder approval for the required public hearing and plan adoption process.

NeDNR and the NRDs discussed multiple sections of draft plan language: the Introduction, Procedures for Addressing Conflict, Plan Area, Monitoring, History of Groundwater and Surface Water Management, and Data and Information Used During Plan Development sections, as well as the draft measurable hydrologic objectives. The NRDs and NeDNR will continue to review and revise these and all other draft plan sections before the March stakeholder meeting.

NeDNR and the NRDs discussed numerous stakeholder proposals and discussions from the November and December stakeholder meetings, including the following: publishing annual data to newspapers; prioritizing timing of voluntary retirements; measuring the effect of dryland acres and its relationship to Ted Tietjen's proposed watershed study; endguns; efficiency incentives; augmentation for surface water supplies , and the Farm Bill outreach proposal..

Upcoming meetings include a NeDNR/NRD Coordination meeting on February 27, 2018, and a Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting on March 20, 2018. Additional NeDNR/NRD Coordination meetings will be scheduled for April and May, and an additional stakeholder meeting for voting on the full plan will be scheduled for June.